



KING COUNTY  
Healthcare  
Coalition

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

# ★★ RMRC BULLETIN ★★

## I-5 LANE CLOSURES: AUGUST 10-29 Is Your Healthcare Facility Ready?

July 18, 2007  
Bulletin #1

### Closure Dates:

August 10, 22:00 to  
August 29, 05:00

### What is the RMRC?

The RMRC is the operational arm of the King County Healthcare Coalition. It provides a central coordinating point for resource management and communications coordination. For more information, visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/>

### Information Session for Healthcare Partners:

July 26, 2007, 7:30am  
Region 6 Meeting  
KCECC, Renton  
For more info, contact  
Allison Schletzbaum at  
[aschletz@u.washington.edu](mailto:aschletz@u.washington.edu)

This newsletter outlines issues that each facility needs to consider to prepare for these closures and provides contact information for the King County Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC). The RMRC will be available to provide assistance to healthcare facilities during the closures. Please review the project specifics below:

- Major rehabilitation of northbound I-5 between Spokane Street (West Seattle Bridge) and I-90 this summer.
- Crews will close several lanes of northbound I-5, **24 hours a day**, including workdays, leaving only approximately half of the lanes open to traffic for 19 days from August 10 to August 29.
- This will cause significant traffic congestion in areas south of downtown Seattle. Expect heavy traffic on alternate routes including city streets in Georgetown, SODO, Rainier Valley and Beacon Hill and on I-405 and State Route 99.
- There will be multiple ramp closures during weekends. For example, the James Street exit from northbound I-5 will be closed from August 10 to August 13. Additional closure information available at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair).
- **Lengthy backups and significant delays are expected.**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q Will there be extra Sounder Trains?

A There will not be any extra Sounder runs (still four in the morning and four in the evening), but there will be extra cars and standing passengers will be allowed.

### Q Will there be extra parking at the Park & Rides?

A Some park and rides will have additional capacity and transit buses will serve nearby park & rides. For additional information, please visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair/CommuteOptions.htm>

### Q What happens if construction runs over the scheduled time?

A WSDOT and the contractor are eager to get this work done quickly. The contractor will receive a \$100,000 per day bonus if they complete the construction work early (\$500,000 max.) and will be fined \$100,000 per day for delays.

### Contacting the RMRC between August 10-29



Allison Schletzbaum  
(206) 731-6213



[rmrc@kchealthrac.org](mailto:rmrc@kchealthrac.org)

For after hours assistance, please call the phone number above and listen for instructions on the voicemail message. After hours assistance may be limited.

For additional questions and answers, please visit the WSDOT Project Blog at <http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2007/02/what-are-you-doing-to-plan-ahead-for.html>



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## Planning Considerations

### Facility

1. Determine alternate routes to your facility.
2. Discuss supply chain issues with your critical vendors.
3. Evaluate whether you need to increase your supplies on hand in case deliveries are delayed.
4. Evaluate the affect of weekend exit closures on your facility.

### Staff

1. Determine who may be able to work from an alternate site.
2. Evaluate whether union employees are eligible to work from a different site or adjust their schedules.
3. Determine if you will change your policy on late arrivals or missed shifts.
4. Clearly relay your organization's expectations to your staff regarding changes in policies.
5. Decide if you will let employees flex their schedules.

### Patient

1. Determine how to communicate instructions to your patients regarding reaching your facility.
2. Decide how you will update your staff and patients on project changes that affect your facility.
3. Decide if you will change your patient late arrival policies.
4. Decide whether late patients will still be seen and communicate that policy to your patients.

## Communicating with Your Staff

WSDOT has developed prescribed staff messages with different audiences that can be used for letters from your COO, placed into your newsletters, etc. Please visit the Employer Resources Section at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair/CommunityOutreach.htm> to download posters and prescribed messages.

Public Information Officers and other hospital staff can receive information directly from the King County Office of Emergency Management regarding the closures and other emergency events by subscribing to the Regional Public Information Network (RPIN). To sign up, visit <http://www.rpin.org> and click on this banner:



**Get Advance Warning. Subscribe to RPIN.**

We'll e-mail you the latest information and alerts as soon as news breaks. [Sign up today >](#)

## Resources

Contact your local EOC to liaison with DOT during the project.

Contact the RMRC for assistance with medical vendor issues during the project.

Check this website during the project for updates: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair/>

## Questions?

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